

**Subject: Keep Shore Line East funding in the Governor's budget**

Esteemed members of the Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee:

I live and work in New London, a shoreline community and a transportation hub for Southeastern Connecticut. For both New London and our state, maintaining current levels of funding for Shore Line East service makes economic and environmental sense.

Economically, Shore Line East expands the job market for people without personal transportation while expanding the labor pool for potential employers. It encourages in-state tourism by making it easy and affordable for people to travel. It attracts and retains young adults who would rather rely on mass transit than add to their debt by purchasing a vehicle.

Environmentally, Shore Line East helps the state reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Here in the Northeast, we are warming twice as fast as the global average, and Connecticut's coastline is particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels. Nearly 40% of Connecticut's greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector. By commuting to work via Shore Line East rather than by automobile, Connecticut residents can reduce their transportation-related carbon dioxide emissions by nearly half.

Lastly, please note that if funding were to be cut for Shore Line East, the damage done would be disproportionate to any savings. When service becomes infrequent, ridership drops. Conversely, we have seen that when Shore Line East service expands, ridership expands as well.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to prioritize funding for Shore Line East, and to maintain its funding at current levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Laura Natusch  
New London, Connecticut